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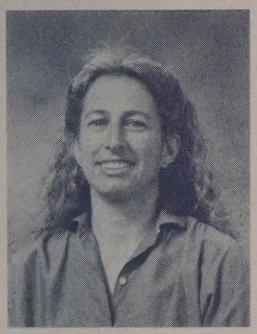
CENTER SCENE

The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter — *July 1990*

SC EMPLOYEE HELPS VICTIMS OF CRIME



Have you ever been burglarized, robbed, or assaulted? Or known someone who has been? Many victims of crime can attest that it's not a pleasant experience. Shock, anger, grief, and denial can haunt one's life for weeks, even months.

One SC employee is doing what she can to help. Pat MacMillan, a physical scientist with the Minerals/Environmental Protection Section, is part of the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Department Victim Assistance Program. This nationwide program provides assistance to crime victims 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Pat is part of a core of 15 to 25 volunteers who take turns being on call nights and weekends. When a call comes in, Pat reports to the crime scene to help calm and counsel the victim. This allows the police officer to concentrate on investigating the crime instead of having to deal with the victim's personal needs. Pat also puts victims in touch with community resources ranging from counselors to house-cleaning services.

Considerable training is required before a person is ready to deal with a traumatized victim at a crime scene. Pat initially completed 40 hours of training over a month-long period. In the 3 years she has been in the program, Pat has also attended monthly in-service training meetings.

Pat helps out with public information activities—school programs, shopping mall displays, and special events. One such event is a Law Enforcement Conference in Boulder to be attended by 2,800 Explorer Scouts in July. Pat will be helping with role playing and event judging.

After 3 years of dealing with hurt people in difficult circumstances, you might think that Pat would be burning out. Quite the contrary. "For me, it's not depressing at all. In fact, it's a real education on the universality of human nature," observes Pat. "You can find some of the strongest people in some really unexpected places."

Judging by Pat's commitment to helping others, it appears that you can also find some of the *kindest* people in many places, including our own.

...BUT WE'LL STILL HAVE AN AWP

Folks worried (or hoping) that the new financial system will eliminate the Annual Work Plan will be pleased (disappointed) to hear it's not true.

BLM converts to the Federal Financial System (FFS) October 1, 1990. But there's a catch. FFS is primarily an accounting package. And — upon conversion — the existing Operating Budget, Labor Cost Plan, and Units of Accomplishments applications will no longer work.

The solution is the Program Management System (PRMS), a Service Center-designed system that will link into FFS for on-line data entry, editing, and retrieval. PRMS serves two basic functions. First, it allows field entry of cost targets (spending limits), workmonths (staff resources), and units of accomplishments (trackable workload measures). All this becomes part of the Annual Work Plan. Second, PRMS summarizes accounting transactions and generates management reports to compare plans with actual results. This data is also used in budget documents required by the Department, OMB, and Congress.

PRMS will be used first for the FY 1991 Annual Work Plan. An orientation will be provided for each Bureau office. Watch for more information.

ALTERNATE WORK SCHEDULES

Some time ago, Personnel sent a questionnaire to all employees about work schedule preferences. A few choice suggestions included: "From 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. with 60 minutes for lunch" and "From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday, 1-1/2 hours for lunch." Of the more practical options, 54 percent of respondents chose the maxiflex schedule.

As of July 1, employees had the option of choosing from a variety of new work schedules. These schedules are being implemented on an 8-month trial basis (July 1-March 1).

Previously, employees' choices were limited to the compressed 5-4/9 schedule and the regular 8-hour day/40-hour week schedule. Schedules added for the trial period were: four 10-hour days, variable days, variable weeks, glide time, and maxiflex.

These schedules must be worked between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. In addition, employees must still account for 80 hours per pay period and be present during specific core hours. BLM core hours are 9:30-11 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m. However, core hour requirements may vary within the different schedules.

Any questions may be referred to Payroll's Client Hotline Service at (303) 969-7732 or FTS 321-7732.

Personnel News

New Employees:

Elizabeth Roetzer, ST (Illus.), SC-140
James Chan, Clerk, SC-320
Angela Hays, Library Aid, SC-320
Marijean Smart, Clerk, SC-320
Sharon Washington, Clerk, SC-320
Linda Mozell, ST (Acct.), SC-615
Jacinda Rahming, Clerk-Typist, SC-650

Separations:

Maria Vazquez, Clerk, SC-320
Wendell White, ST (Phys. Sct), SC-320
Ellen Friesenegger, Data Trans., SC-340
Phyllis Day, Clerk-Typist, SC-670

MEET YOUR MANAGERS

Deal Me In
by Bill Griffith

When they chose to do a series on Service Center managers they asked me to write the first one. I guess they decided to get the old ones first. You know, those who might not live until the next issue. And besides, Dorian Gray was unavailable.

There are worse things than being born in Kansas — staying there, for one. When I was young(er), my parents moved frequently but I always found them. I attended the University of Kansas, ostensibly to major in journalism. But I flunked out after 2 years when the registrar, in a fit of narrow-mindedness, refused my claim for Life Experience credits in Beer Consumption and Shuffleboard. I no more than got to the bottom of the hill in Lawrence than the selective service nabbed me for a vacancy in the U.S. Army.

Continuing my streak of good luck, I ended up in Inchon, Korea as a gunnery sergeant in an anti-aircraft battery. Since the North Koreans didn't have an air force, it was rather easy duty. We used to try to shoot ducks in the harbor mud flats. But if you are hunting for meat, popping a mallard with a 40mm round is probably not recommended.

Korea helped me decide that an education would not be a bad thing. I graduated from Washburn University in Topeka and did my graduate work in history at KU (the registrar had gone to Boot Hill by that time). I taught History in high school and college for the next 6 years. Teaching was a bonus in many ways; that is how I met Pat, my wife of almost 30 years. Together we raised three daughters and one son.

I began my Federal career in 1962 with the Bureau of Public Roads (now the Federal Highway Administration) as a personnel management trainee in Washington. I transferred to Denver and then went to work at the Service Center in 1966. Most of my career has been in personnel management, except for the past 3 years which has been in budget and management analysis work.

My hobbies include stamp collecting, wallyball, doughnuts, and, most of

all, bridge. In fact, we have had a noontime game since 1966 with as nefarious a group of Service Center employees as you could imagine.

The high point of my career has been the opportunity to meet thousands of incredibly nice people throughout the Bureau. It has been a pleasure doing business with you. Okay, whose deal?

Editor's Note: This article kicks off a series of management profiles in future issues of Center Scene.

PRESERVING HISTORY

Should you ever venture downstairs in Building 50, you would find about 20 people from the Branch of Photo Imaging working diligently at photographing and making microfiche of the public land survey records. This includes records for original mining claims, homestead entry surveys, and Indian reservations.

The surveys of the western lands, if brought together in one place, would fill a large library. In order to photograph and organize these survey records, they must first be grouped together by township and range, read, and abstracted. This task is performed by abstractors Dennis Clonts and Mac Goding. Supervisor Betty Riley coordinates these efforts, making sure the data are entered into a computerized data base so that the photographers have computerized filming instructions. These tasks are not easy ones. Because most of the western states were surveyed beginning about 1850, these old land survey records are crumbling into dust. Often the older records must be copied and transcribed before they can be photographed. Then, when the original document is photographed, the copy is stamped "Transcribed Copy Of Original Field Notes" and photographed next to it.

The camera room is the heart of the operation. On a typical day, you can find Bob Zangari in the camera room taking 35mm black and white pictures of an old 20- by 24-inch ink plat. It might be a township plat from Wyoming dated 1890, or perhaps the layout of an Army fort in New Mexico dated 1866. At the next camera you might find Rosina Martinez taking 16mm black and white pictures of a mining claim filed in Arizona - like the one filed by Doc Holliday and the Earp brothers in 1881. Next to her, Nathan Matthews may be reloading his camera after taking pictures of the original surveys of the boundary line between California and Nevada, from Lake Tahoe to Fort Mojave.

In the darkroom, Joseph Harris develops the 16mm and the 35mm film, and makes duplicate black and white copies for archival records. The archival quality black and white film has a silver nitrate image that will last many hundreds of years. After the film has dried and been checked, Ethel Coontz and Mary Valverde, using special filler equipment, slice it and put it into microfiche jackets.

It takes about a year to film and finish a state's land survey records. New Mexico's records were completed last year, and Arizona's will be completed by December 1990. Meanwhile, the Nevada records have arrived and are being prepared for filming.

By the way, if anyone would like to see a copy of the mining claim of Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday, filed in the Tombstone Mining District, see Betty Riley. She keeps a copy of it on her desk.

The annual Service Center picnic will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, August 3, 1990, at Lakewood Park (across from Gate 1 of the Federal Center). Lunch this year will be barbecued chicken and ribs. Lots of fun activities will follow. Tickets will go on sale July 9, 1990. For further information about ticket sales or the picnic, contact Lynn Price (6-6703), Donna Emmons (6-6454), or Jeff Jung (6-0150).